AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): An immunological latex turbidimetry method for analyzing an antigen or antibody in a sample, comprising steps of:

(1) bringing a sample which may contain the antigen or antibody to be analyzed into contact with a protease-treated <u>fragmented</u> bovine serum albumin <u>consisting essentially of about 2 to 10 fragments</u>; and

(2) bringing a mixture obtained in the above step (1) into contact with latex particles carrying <u>bovine serum albumin and</u> an antibody or antigen <u>that</u> specifically <u>binds to</u> ~~reacting with~~ the antigen or antibody to be assayed, ~~said latex particles being coated with bovine serum albumin,~~ and analyzing a turbidity caused by a latex agglutination reaction.

2.   (canceled).

3.   (canceled).

4.   (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry method according to claim 1 wherein the protease is a pepsin.

5.   (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry method according to claim 1

wherein the antibody to be analyzed is an anti-streptolysin O antibody, and the antigen carried on

the latex particles is a streptolysin O antigen.

6.   (currently amended): An immunological latex turbidimetry reagent comprising

(1) a first component containing a protease-treated <u>fragmented</u> bovine serum albumin <u>consisting</u>

<u>essentially of about 2 to 10 fragments</u>, and (2) a second component containing latex particles

carrying <u>bovine serum albumin and</u> an antibody or antigen <u>that</u> specifically <u>binds to</u> ~~reacting with~~

an antigen or antibody to be assayed~~, said latex particles being coated with bovine serum~~

~~albumin~~.

7.   (canceled).

8.   (canceled).

9.   (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry reagent according to claim 6

wherein the protease is a pepsin.

10.   (original): The immunological latex turbidimetry reagent according to claim 6

wherein the antibody to be analyzed is an anti-streptolysin O antibody, and the antigen carried on

the latex particles is a streptolysin O antigen.